



Givens Lane/Progress Street Extension Project VDOT Design PH Comments

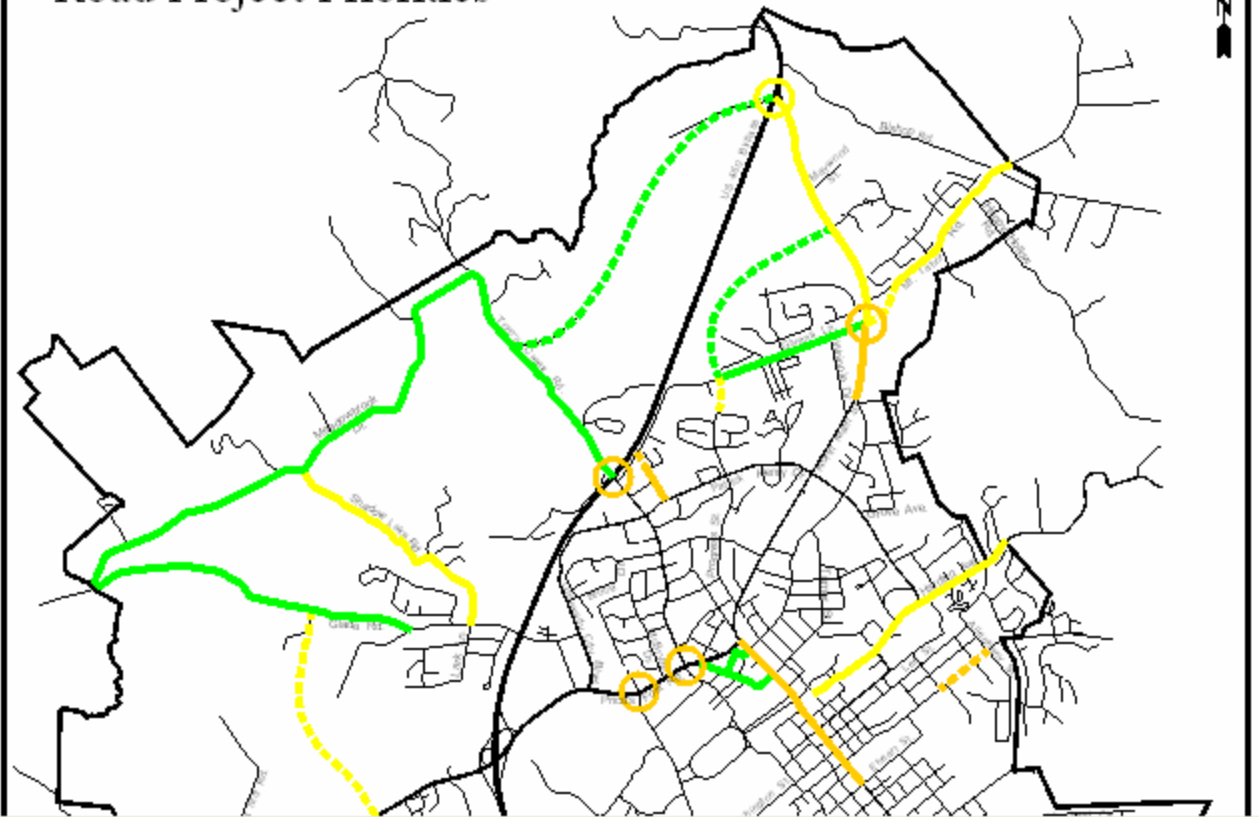


Town Council Work Session
May 16, 2006

Background

- VDOT Urban Road Improvement Project
- Includes \$9.5m federal funds which must be obligated by October 2006.
- To Be Administered by VDOT as Design/Build
- Construction Anticipated to begin Fall 2007 to Spring 2008
- Public Input Meetings Held
 - October 6, 2005
 - October 25, 2005
- Council Resolution Adopted Providing Direction to VDOT
- VDOT Design Public Hearing Held April 10, 2006
- Council Resolution Required on June 13, 2006

Road Project Priorities



- ◆ Several planned road projects will directly affect traffic flow in the neighborhood. Progress Street is to be extended through this neighborhood to create an intersection with North Main Street and Wyatt Farm Road. Givens Lane is to be closed along its western end near the Tom's Creek Road - Route 460 Bypass interchange. Chickahominy Drive and Progress Street are planned to connect to Givens Lane from Patrick Henry Drive. Residents are concerned about maintaining good emergency access to the area during and after future road construction, as well as reducing the traffic volume along Givens Lane.

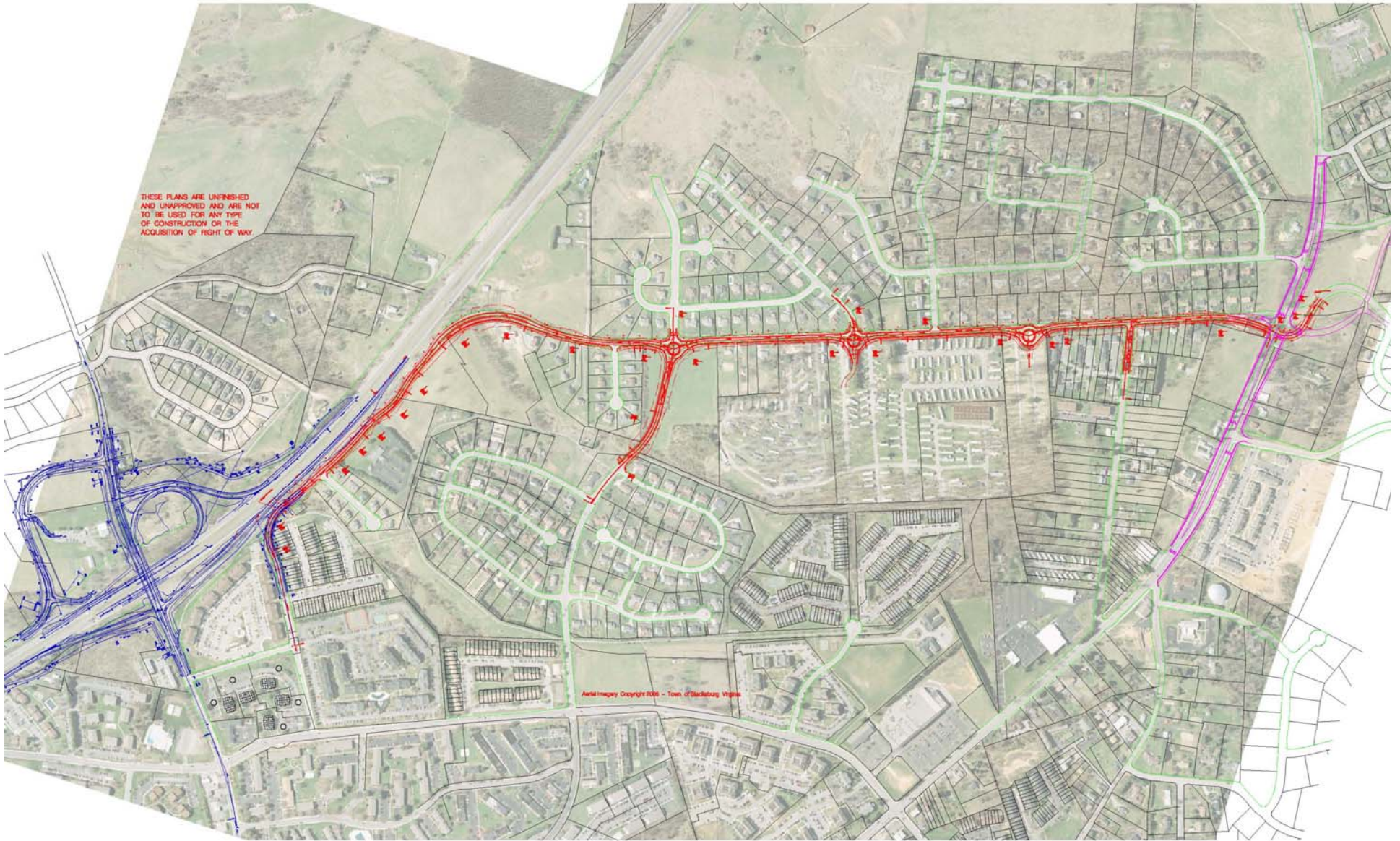
Comprehensive Plan

Next Steps

- May 16, 2006 Work Session
 - Review Design Public Hearing comments
 - Identify the questions to be answered by Town Council
- May 23, 2006 Town Council Meeting
 - Public Address on this Project anticipated
- May 30, 2006 or June 6, 2006 Work Session (tbd 5/22)
 - Staff requests draft answers from Town Council for preparation of a Resolution.
- June 13, 2006 Town Council Meeting
 - Town Council resolution on the Agenda for Action providing final answers to key project questions to VDOT.

THESE PLANS ARE UNFINISHED
AND UNAPPROVED AND ARE NOT
TO BE USED FOR ANY TYPE
OF CONSTRUCTION OR THE
ACQUISITION OF RIGHT OF WAY

Aerial Imagery Copyright 2005 - Town of Blacksburg, Virginia



Preliminary Plan- for Public Hearing



- Exhibits

Public Hearing -VDOT Summary

- The purpose of this project is to provide a wider travel way, designated bicycle lanes, and sidewalk in order to enhance safety and promote multimodal transportation along the roadway.
- Givens Lane and Progress Street are classified as Urban Collector Streets serving primarily residential areas in northwest Blacksburg.
- The average traffic volume on Givens Lane in 2005 was 2300 vehicles per day. The traffic volume is expected to increase on Givens Lane to 4380 vehicles per day by 2030 and Progress Street extension is expected to generate 2700 vehicles per day by 2030.

Public Hearing -VDOT Summary

- 135 people attended the Design Public Hearing and signed the attendance list.
- 104 written and 1 verbal comments were received for the record.
- Additional comments were emailed to the Town and Town Council directly, some from the same people. In addition, a petition was presented to Town Council.

General Comments

- Givens Lane Improvements were generally very well supported, with comments following...
 - VDOT is working to address issues related to the Ratcliffe house at the corner of Whipple/Givens.
- The predominant comment was opposition to the extension of Progress Street.
- Another often repeated comment was concern about the use of or number of roundabouts.

Prior Council Direction – PH Comments

1. Delete medians on Givens, include traffic calming measures
 - Medians were deleted, three roundabouts and a splitter were added.

Comments

- Support the traffic calming improvements (checkmark on question #2)- (48)
- Three roundabouts on Givens are too many (7), one at Progress/Givens is enough (4)
- Roundabouts are confusing and should not be used (15)
- Givens/Progress should be stop signs or a signal, not roundabout (3)
- Speed bumps are preferred to slow traffic (2)

Town Council Question

Should the roundabouts remain as proposed?

Should the number of roundabouts be reduced?

Should the roundabouts be eliminated?

Prior Council Direction – PH Comments

2. Include on Givens Lane bike lanes, an 8' multipurpose path on the south side, and no sidewalk on the north side. Add pedestrian crossings improvements.
- Bike lanes and the 8' path are included. Sidewalk was deleted, and cross walk markings were added.

Comments

- Support the Givens Lane improvements (checkmark on question #1)- (73)
- Like the bike lanes(3), **oppose the bike lanes (5)**
- **Add sidewalk on the north side between Northside Drive and Progress St (3)**
- **Prefer 5' concrete sidewalk to 8' asphalt trail (12)**
- **Givens/Progress should be stop signs or a signal, not roundabout (3)**
- **Oppose Sidewalk and Bike path (1)**
- **Need to stop traffic at crosswalks (1)**
- **Givens Lane should be wider (2), is too wide (1)**
- **Givens Lane should access 460 (1), should dead end (1)**

Town Council Questions

Should the Givens Lane improvements include:

1) Bikelanes?; 2) Multipurpose path only on the South Side?; 3) Additional sidewalk on the north side between Northside Dr. and Progress St.?; 4) A 5' sidewalk rather than an 8' multipurpose path?

Prior Council Direction – PH Comments

3. Include Extension of Progress Street, add traffic calming on proposed and existing Progress Street.
- The Extension is included with a roundabout at Givens. No other measures are included.

Comments

- Support the Progress St. Extension (checkmark on question #3)- (43)
- Oppose the Progress St. Extension (45) (petition also submitted to Town Council); build culde sac (1)
 - division of neighborhood, effect on quiet, litter, safety, property value.
 - blind spots on Progress St. in Shenandoah neighborhood (Sight distance is inadequate)
 - condition of Progress St. between Patrick Henry & Broce
 - safety of Patrick Henry/Progress traffic signal
 - sufficient alternate routes exist, monitor those before building this
 - pollution and bus traffic (no BT route plans now, however potential for future)
 - concern that crime will rise (Police call comparison does not show direct link)
- Any extension should be for Fire and Rescue only.(1)
- Traffic calming should be provided on Progress in Shenandoah, improve Seminole/Progress intersection (9)
- Progress St. should be extended from Givens to Main Street before Givens to Patrick Henry. (1)

Town Council Questions

Should Progress Street be extended? Should a separate project be initiated to improve sight distance at Seminole/Progress? And add a roundabout at that location?

Prior Council Direction – PH Comments

4. Present the details of the Progress St. stream crossing at the public hearing.
 - A performance spec. requires a **minimum** clear opening width and height for the trail and stream crossings.

Comments

- This crossing should be a bridge not a culvert (3)

Town Council Question

Does the Council wish to specify a bridge? Or is a minimum clear opening sufficient to address the public concern for safety and visibility?

5. Screening with landscaping or berms should be included but not increase right of way.
 - The VDOT project budget does not include landscaping.

Comments

- Concern about compensation to property owner for 15 Leyland Cyprus, 8' tall, on Givens. (R/W issue)
- Avoid removal of large oaks on north side of Givens Lane. (2) (Road shift increases impacts elsewhere)
- Add landscaping in roundabouts (1), on west side of Progress (1), between path and Givens Lane (3)

Town Council Question

Does Town Council wish to encourage funding of landscaping improvements if the project scope is reduced

Prior Council Direction – PH Comments

6. Pedestrian Crossing Improvements should be made at the current Shenandoah trail crossings of Progress.
 - PW has installed stop signs on the trail and crossing warning signs on the road. Cross walk striping will be done by the Town this summer.
 - No VDOT crossing improvements are included in this project.

Comments

- Need to stop traffic at pedestrian crossings (1)

Council Question

- Should a separate project be initiated to install a pedestrian actuated crossing signal at the Shenandoah trail crossing of Progress Street?

Prior Council Direction – PH Comments

7. The extension of Progress Street should include bike lanes and a sidewalk on the east side.
- Bike lanes and sidewalk were included in the plans.

Comments

- Sidewalk should be added on the west side of Progress Street (2)

Town Council Question

Does the Council wish to add sidewalk on the west side of Progress Street?

8. Improve the Progress St/Patrick Henry Drive signal.
- This signal has been included in another VDOT project which is anticipated to be advertised for construction in winter 2007.

Comments

- The Patrick Henry/Progress St Intersection needs to be improved. (7)

Town Council Question

None, Traffic Signal improvements are included in another funded project that will proceed independent of this project.

Prior Council Direction – PH Comments

9. All intersections should be evaluated for turn lanes, and appropriate traffic controls.
 - Roundabouts are used at three Givens Lane intersections. A stop sign will be placed on Whipple Drive. The Main/Givens intersection will receive a signal with the North Main Street improvement project. These provide acceptable level of service through the design horizon of 2025.

Comments

- A traffic signal is needed at Givens/North Main St. intersection. (2)

Town Council Question

Staff has requested, and recommends the resolution include, an evaluation of this intersection for signal warrants with this project.

Prior Council Direction – PH Comments

10. All overhead utilities in the project area should be placed underground.
- Existing utilities that are overhead and in conflict with the project improvements will be relocated underground.

Comments

- Existing utility lines should be placed underground in the project area. (1)

Town Council Question

None

11. The project should include roadway lighting.
- Street lights will be installed at the roundabouts. The rest of the project will receive conduit and bases for later street light installation as initiated by the Town.

Comments

- No street lighting, or very limited (dark sky friendly) street lighting is desired. (1)

Town Council Question

None, street lighting standards include limitation on illumination and sharp cutoff features.

Prior Council Direction – PH Comments

12. Sidewalk on Whipple should be included.
 - Sidewalk is included within the project limits.
13. Improve the intersection of Sunridge Drive and Toms Creek Road.
 - This work is being done under the Toms Creek Interchange project, June 2006.
14. Details of construction phasing should be determined by VDOT or the design build team during the final design process.
 - Details of phasing are not yet determined, and at this point left to the design build team to propose for VDOT evaluation.

Comments

- Suggestions were made to defer Progress Extension until the other connections were constructed and evaluated. These comments are included in the Progress St. Extension comment above.

Town Council Question

If Progress Street is included in this project, its phasing can be requested, however, it is not possible to delay the project for an evaluation period between phases. Progress Street Extension could be removed from this project scope, and then if desired, reconsidered as a future project as funding allows.

Other PH Comments

- Confusion about plan details at Whipple/Givens.(5)
 - The grade of Whipple will be improved to provide a flatter landing at Givens. The stop sign will be on Whipple Drive, not Givens.
 - VDOT is working with the property owner of the house on the corner of Whipple/Givens.
 - Additional Town Council Direction?
- Driveway detail requests along Givens(210, 705,creek) (5)
 - These will be added to the plans
 - Additional Town Council Direction?
- The proposed Stormwater basin at the curve should be dual purpose, recreational (fish) as well as storm water management.
 - This will be added to the plans, VDOT is working with the property owner on this issue, and the offer of fill dirt from this property.
 - Additional Town Council Direction?
- The intersection of Chickahominy Drive and Patrick Henry needs to be improved.
 - This intersection is outside the scope of this project, and cannot be included.
 - Town Council could initiate this as a separate VDOT project, as funding allows.

Next Steps -Recap

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